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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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MAYNARD REECE WINS DUCK STAMP CONTEST AGAIN

A picture of two gadwall ducks jumping from a pond was chosen January 25 for the 18th duck stamp in the Fish and Wildlife Service's annual duck stamp competition in Washington, D. C. The artist of the winning design is Maynard Reece, staff artist and museum assistant at the Iowa State Department of History and Archives in Des Moines, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today.

Mr. Reece is the second former duck stamp artist to win the competition a second time. Last year Walter Weber won the contest for the second time with his trumpeter swan design. Mr. Reece's earlier design showing three buffle-head ducks was used on the 1948-49 stamp.

Invited to serve with Service Director Albert M. Day as members of the Judging Committee were: Sen. A. Willis Robertson (Va.); Sen. Edwin C. Johnson (Colo.); Rep. Clark W. Thompson (Tex.); Hugh Grey, editor of Field and Stream; Michael Hudoba, Washington editor of Sports Afield; Arthur Grahame, Washington representative of Outdoor Life; John H. Baker, president, National Audubon Society; Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, president, Wildlife Management Institute; J. Hammond Brown, president, Outdoor Writers Association of America; Carl D. Shoemaker, National Wildlife Federation; Wendell A. Teague, Ducks Unlimited, New York City; Walter Weber, two-time duck stamp design winner; Donald R. McLeod, superintendent of the Engraving Division of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing; H. P. Caemmerer, secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts; and Dr. John W. Aldrich, Fish and Wildlife Service.

This is the second year that the competition has been opened to all artists—professional and amateur. In former years outstanding wildlife artists were invited to submit entries and the selection was made from this limited group. The decision to hold a public contest has been rewarding, Director Day said, because a large number of excellent pictures have been received.

Three artists whose designs had been selected in previous years submitted entries again this year in the open contest. Like all the other artists' entries, these were handled with complete impartiality; the artists' names and other distinguishing features were masked by mounting the entries at random behind large boards which each contain 5 x 7 inch openings.

A total of 74 designs were submitted by 51 contestants. Of these, a number were from children and at least six were from women. Twenty-six States, the District of Columbia, and Canada were represented among the entries.

New York contestants were the most numerous, with seven, Pennsylvania is in second place with five contestants, and Minnesota third with four entrants.

Other States represented were: South Carolina, Kansas, California, Missouri, Louisiana, Florida, Texas, Ohio, Nebraska, Massachusetts, Iowa, Idaho, Wisconsin, Washington, Georgia, North Carolina, Maryland, Montana, Indiana, S. Dakota, Connecticut, Illinois, Virginia.

The winning artist receives no direct compensation with his award, but he is free to capitalize on his design by selling autographed prints, etc.; all such projects, however, are subject to the terms of a contract he signs with the Service. All entries are to be returned to the contestants.

All migratory waterfowl hunters over 16 years of age are required by law to purchase and have a stamp of current issue duly signed when hunting.

Now sold for \$2 (issues previous to the current one sold for \$1), the duck stamps provide funds that help finance the Federal Government's wildlife refuge program. Ninety percent of the money realized from the sale of the stamps is used by the Fish and Wildlife Service to supplement other funds for the purchase and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country. The remaining 10 percent is used for printing and distribution of the stamps, enforcement of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, and other Federal activities for migratory bird conservation.

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Note to Editors: Pictures available on loan.